

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 2 and 18, without prejudice. Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13-17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 31-34, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of processing ~~at least~~ a nanotube, comprising the steps of:

contacting said nanotube with a reactive substrate having a defined edge;

causing a ~~selective~~ solid state reaction between a selected part of ~~[[a]]~~ said nanotube and ~~[[a]]~~ said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate so as to have produce in said selected part ~~only become a~~ reaction product having a boundary aligned with said defined edge; and

separating said nanotube from said reaction product at said boundary to define an end of said nanotube.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said solid state reaction is caused by heating said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is heated by an irradiation of a heat ray onto said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate.

Claim 5 (original): The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said heat ray is an infrared ray.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is heated by applying a current between said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate and said nanotube.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said step of contacting said ~~part of said~~ nanotube with said reactive ~~substance~~ further substrate comprises the steps of:

dispersing said nanotube into an organic solvent to form a dispersion liquid;
applying said dispersion liquid onto a surface of said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate; and
evaporating said organic solvent from said dispersion liquid to leave said nanotube on said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate.

Claim 8 (original): The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said nanotube is separated from said reaction product by rapidly cooling said reaction product.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nanotube is a ~~single-layer-winded~~ single-walled nanotube.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nanotube is a ~~multi-layer-winded~~ multi-walled nanotube.

Claim 11 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nanotube is a carbon nanotube.

Claim 12 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said nanotube is a boron nitride based nanotube.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is a metal.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is Nb.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is a semiconductor.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is Si.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is in a solid state.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~claim 18~~ claim 1, wherein said defined edge is defined by a hole formed in said substrate.

Claim 20 (original): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said end of said nanotube is a top of said nanotube.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method of forming a top of a ~~carbon~~ nanotube, comprising the steps of:

~~selectively~~ contacting a ~~selected part of~~ a nanotube with a solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate having ~~[[an]]~~ a defined edge;

carrying out a heat treatment ~~[[to]]~~ of said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate to cause a ~~selective~~ solid state reaction ~~[[on]]~~ in a ~~contacting~~ region of said ~~selected part of~~ said nanotube and said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate ~~so as to have said~~ produce in a selected part ~~only become of said nanotube~~ a reaction product, ~~wherein having a boundary between said reaction~~

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~~product and said nanotube is self-aligned to~~ aligned with said defined edge of said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate; and

separating said nanotube from said reaction product at said boundary to define a top of said nanotube.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is heated by an irradiation of a heat ray onto said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate.

Claim 23 (original): The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein said heat ray is an infrared ray.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is heated by applying a current between said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate and said nanotube.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said step of contacting ~~said selected part of~~ said nanotube with said reactive ~~substance~~ substrate further comprises the steps of:

dispersing said nanotube into an organic solvent to form a dispersion liquid;

applying said dispersion liquid onto a surface of said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate; and

evaporating said organic solvent from said dispersion liquid to leave said nanotube on said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate.

Claim 26 (original): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nanotube is separated from said reaction product by rapidly cooling said reaction product.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nanotube is a ~~single-layer-winded~~ single-walled nanotube.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nanotube is a ~~multi-layer-winded~~ multi-walled nanotube.

Claim 29 (original): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nanotube is a carbon nanotube.

Claim 30 (original): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said nanotube is a boron nitride based nanotube.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is a metal.

Claim 32 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is Nb.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is a semiconductor.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein said solid state reactive ~~substance~~ substrate is Si.

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